

# ARIZONA SENTINEL

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## MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY,

### A Great Celebration--Published Program Practically Carried Out.

The ninetieth anniversary of the independence of the republic of Mexico was celebrated this year in Yuma with greater pomp and grandeur than ever before. The Mexican-Americans of Yuma had been preparing for this occasion for a long time. The anniversary comes on the 16th of September, but preparations were made for a three days' celebration--the 15th, 16th and 17th.

La Junta Patriótica Mexicana had charge of the rendering of the program, which they carried through with honor to themselves, for they made a perfect success of the whole affair and too much credit cannot be given those who had charge of the celebration for their tireless efforts for the pleasure and enjoyment of everyone.

The first day's program was rather short. The forenoon was spent in church services; also in the evening La Junta Patriótica Mexicana marched to the church, where Father Durand delivered a patriotic address. Dick Ronstead's juvenile band from Gila Bend rendered a few selections in the church during the progress of the evening services. At 7 p. m. all marched from the church to the school house, where the evening's program was concluded.

The school house plaza and the front of the school building were beautifully decorated. At the main entrance to the plaza was an arch entwined with the Mexican National colors, with "Old Glory" floating directly over it. The arch was also dotted here and there with electric lights, producing a beautiful effect.

Passing through the arch brought one directly in front of the school house, but the front of the building had undergone such a transformation that the oldest residents could scarcely recognize it, and a stranger would hardly suspect but that it was an edifice built and decorated for the occasion. Electric lights were everywhere and all artistically arranged. The front veranda was transformed into as neat and bright a stage as any artistic fancy could have conceived. The background was draped with two large flags--one the Stars and Stripes with a picture of George Washington in the center, the other that of the Mexican republic, with Miguel Hidalgo y Castilla's portrait in the center of it. Everything was tastefully and harmoniously arranged, and the effect was pleasing to the eye.

At 8 o'clock the exercises of the evening began. The first was music by the band.

J. L. Redondo, master of ceremonies introduced the speakers of the evening.

First was the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Eduardo Arios Messrs. Y. L. Molina and Luis Ramirez were the speakers. Both young men proved themselves to be able and patriotic orators and were applauded very heartily.

The second day, Sunday, the 16th, was the star day. The forenoon was devoted to church services.

At five p. m. the procession formed in front of the school house, and paraded the full length of Main street and returned. The order of parade was as follows:

The parade was led by J. M. Speese

and Ramon Gallego as color bearers, holding aloft the flags of the two sister Republics. Followed by La Junta Patriótica Mexicana. Then followed the Gila Bend Juvenile band.

The first float bore the Queen of the Montezumas and the Goddess of Liberty and their attendants. The second float was loaded with little girls in costume holding banners representing the different states of Mexico. Then came the Yuma Fire Department, followed by the Mayor and council in carriages; citizens mounted and in carriages bringing up the rear.

Ramon Villa as marshal of the day, deserves great commendation for his able conduct of affairs.

At 8 p. m., Master of Ceremonies J. L. Redondo, started the evening entertainment at the school house.

Among the principal speakers were Miguel and Manuel Monroy, M. B. DeVane, Pierce Evans A. Contreras J. M. Venegas and Pablo Ramirez.

Miss Rita de la Ossa delivered an oration which captivated her hearers and brought liberal cheers.

Miss Artemisa Molina was then introduced, and delivered a patriotic recitation in English entitled "The Voyage." She is a handsome young lady and a pleasing speaker.

The Mexican national hymn was sung by nineteen handsome young ladies, who were all dressed in white and impressed their hearers by the feeling and force they put in the singing.

The band played a selection after each number.

On the evening of the 17th the grand ball was given in the new Gandolfo building.

The music was furnished by Prof. Apolonio's orchestra, and was all that could be desired--it was fine.

In point of attendance this was the greatest ball ever given in Yuma, and the amply dimensions of the hall, easily accommodated the large crowd comfortably.

Both the celebration and ball will long be remembered as one of the great events in Yuma--both in point of pleasure and an exhibition of patriotism.

## EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS.

**To be made by the S. P. Railroad Co., at Yuma--Capacity of Yards will be Greatly Increased--Double Track on Madison Ave. to First Street--Fine new Caboose Shed to be Built--Other Improvements.**

The best evidence in the world of the prosperity of any section of the country is where the railroads are doing a good business; where traffic is light employees are discharged or laid off and the time of those retained is cut down, and a general curtailment of expenses inaugurated--all indicative of financial depression and dull times. When business is good with the railroads, more men are employed, many of them work extra time new rolling stock is put on, new rails and ties laid, road bed, put in better condition, and capacity for handling traffic materially increased.

Now as to our own city of Yuma, the country tributary to it--and the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. Business is good in Yuma and trade is increasing, and the whole surrounding country is prosperous. The S. P. Company shares in this prosperity and their traffic has increased to such an extent that they are compelled to greatly en-

large their facilities for handling the business at this point. Following are some of the improvements they are going to make--in fact have already begun:

The capacity of the yards will be more than quadrupled, in doing which the company will expend over \$50,000.

The caboose sheds will be moved east nearer the lumber yard, and a large addition will be built.

Freight house will be moved further north, and materially enlarged.

Several additional side tracks will be put in.

A double track will be laid on Madison Avenue to a point a little north of First street. This work will be first-class in every particular. The heaviest steel rails, and the best ties to be procured will be used; the street will be paved in a first-class manner with Gila City gravel, and the track laid flush with the surface, so as to furnish no obstruction to vehicles in the slightest degree. The company will also furnish all of the gravel necessary to the city free of cost for the purpose of grading First street west from the railroad over the hill.

A number of other important improvements will be made in the east end of the yard, but just what they will be has not yet been decided.

Mr. R. J. Duncan, trainmaster, whose headquarters is in Tucson, and Mr. C. K. Clark, roadmaster, with headquarters at Gila Bend, have been in Yuma recently conferring with property owners regarding right of way and other privileges, and everything was satisfactorily arranged, so that the work will proceed to a finish without any delay.

Shorey has just received a new line of Ralston Health Foods.

Fine fancy fans, Japanese fans, and all kinds of fans at Sam Lung's grocery store.

John Stoffella returned last Saturday from Los Angeles, where he had been on business.

Henry Wolff, importer and jobber of diamonds, was doing business in Yuma the first of the week.

Al Galpin came down from Phoenix this morning to assume his duties as a guard at the prison.

You like rolled wheat for breakfast. Shorey has just received a fresh supply in bulk--4 pounds for 25c.

Attorney P. T. Robertson returned from a visit to Pasadena Saturday.

Mrs. Miles Archibald returned Saturday from California, where she spent the summer, very much improved in health.

Mrs. Herbert Brown and her daughter Zelba and son Herbert returned on Friday night's train from California, and will reside in Yuma this winter.

Go to Geo. Paxton's store and get all kinds of fruit, vegetables, cigars, tobacco, bread, cakes, pies, etc. Quick sales and small profits is my motto.

J. V. Coffey and wife were in attendance at the grand ball Monday night. Mr. Coffey is one of the trusted employees of the Fortuna Mining Company, and is stationed at Blaisdell.

District Attorney J. L. Brown and wife came home Sunday night from Los Angeles. Mrs. Brown has been at the coast during the summer and returns much refreshed and invigorated.

## H. C. RYDER SUICIDES.

### Puts a Bullet Through His Heart--Ill Health the Cause.

Despondency over bad health, and doubtless also because he was penniless and without friends, drove H. C. Ryder to take his own life, in a little adobe house on 4th street, between Main and Gila last Saturday, about 2:15 p. m.

No shots were heard, but shortly after two o'clock smoke was seen issuing from the doors and windows of the house and quite a number of people were attracted there by it.

Upon a bed in the center of the room lay the dead body of Ryder and alongside was an old-fashioned Colt's revolver, of large calibre. The bed-clothes were ignited from the firing of the revolver, and it was this that caused the smoke.

Upon examination it was found that the bullet had entered the breast directly over the heart, going through the body and through both the bed and the floor. Death must have followed the shooting very quickly.

Coroner Werninger was early at the scene. He impaneled a jury and an inquest was held, the verdict being that death was self-inflicted.

Little is known of the dead man in Yuma, as he lived alone, and had been here less than thirty days. He was about 40 years old, and formerly lived at Victor, Cal.

Only two dollars were found on his person. In the room was a galvanic battery and a package of old letters, but nothing else of any value.

The body was turned over to Undertaker Johnson for burial.

Yellowstone and Monogram whiskies at The Ruby.

The Yuma Fire Department made a fine appearance in their new uniforms.

The big dredger went up the river to the Pot Holes last Sunday to begin operations.

Miss Alma Kerns has been employed by the school board of the Yuma district as teacher in the Grammar department. Miss Kerns comes to us with the highest recommendations from the superintendent of school at Los Angeles, where she has taught several terms.

R. B. Young, a well-known architect of Los Angeles, arrived in Yuma Sunday night. He is here on business. Mr. Young was the architect of the splendid Gandolfo block corner 1st and Main and the fine Gandolfo building, corner 2nd and Main.

A. Haines, proprietor of the popular Haines barber shop, returned last week from his summer trip to San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Mr. Haines reports that he had a jolly, good time. His good-natured assistant Harry Morris, is now "inside," revelling in the pleasures, beauties, flowers, oranges, etc., of California.

Dan Devore and wife were among the visitors from Fortuna who attended the ball Monday night. Mr. Devore was elected a delegate from Fortuna to the county Republican convention. Devore's many friends are talking of presenting him as a candidate before the convention for supervisor. A better man could not be selected.

Mr. S. Darling, the Yuma jeweler, returned last Saturday night from a thirty days visit to San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. The trip was prolific of much genuine pleasure to Mr. Darling, as he met many old friends whom he had not seen for a quarter of a century, some of those were former school mates, and his meeting with them was an unexpected but most gratifying and happy surprise.